



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the moment their extreme rarity on this coast business matters would have been cast aside. Mr. A. W. Anthony of San Diego, on being notified by letter of the presence of this species succeeded in shooting several specimens off San Diego Bay. Since then Mr. L. M. Loomis has taken one specimen on Monterey Bay, and I believe this completes the record for this coast.

*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*. PIÑON JAY.—In December, 1895, a large flock of these birds located in the vicinity of Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Cal. This flock made a tour of the town nearly every day that I was there, flying from one pine tree to another and sometimes alighting on the ground, but never staying in one spot more than a minute or two. The oldest inhabitants could not remember having seen these birds before nor having heard their peculiar cries. I succeeded in securing six specimens, all females. From what observations I could make during their restless movements I should say that the majority, if not all, of this flock were females.

*Larus canus*. MEW GULL.—There is in our collection an adult of this species taken upon San Francisco Bay, Cal., some years ago. Unfortunately, however, the label was accidentally torn off in moving the collection, and at that time no systematic record of specimens was kept.—  
JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Geronimo, Marin Co., Cal.*

## RECENT LITERATURE.

‘Audubon and His Journals.’<sup>1</sup>—In the brief space of 73 pages Miss Audubon has given the public for the first time a trustworthy biography of her illustrious grandfather, John James Laforest Audubon.<sup>2</sup> ‘The Life of Audubon the Naturalist,’ edited by Mr. Robert Buchanan from

<sup>1</sup> Audubon and his Journals | By Maria R. Audubon | With Zoölogical and other Notes | by Elliott Coues | Volume I [-II] | New York | Charles Scribner’s Sons | 1897. — Two vols. 8vo, illustrated. Vol. I, pp. i–xiv, 1–532, 22 ill., mostly full-page photogravure; Vol. II, pp. i–viii, 1–554, 15 photogravure ill. and 9 facsimiles of diplomas. (Price, \$7.50.)

<sup>2</sup> Doubtless the name Laforest is little known as a part of Audubon’s name, but in a footnote to p. 5 of the biography Miss Audubon gives the following quotation from a letter of Audubon to Mrs. Rathbone, written in 1827, and adds that all Mrs. Audubon’s letters to her husband address him as Laforest: ‘My name is John James Laforest Audubon. The name Laforest I never sign except when writing to my wife, and she is the only being, since my father’s death, who calls me by it.’

material supplied by his Widow,' published in London in 1868 and republished in New York in 1869, with additions, and the omission of some objectionable passages, has been heretofore our principal authority on the life of the great artist-naturalist, but it is said to contain many errors in dates and names, and is otherwise very unsatisfactory.

Audubon was born in Mandeville, Parish of St. Tammany, Louisiana. The date of his birth remains in obscurity; it is usually given as May 5, 1780, though believed to be somewhat earlier. It was, however, during the time Louisiana was a Spanish colony, some twenty to twenty-five years before it became a part of the United States. Yet Audubon, in so often referring to himself in his European Journals as the American woodsman, is literally within the truth as regards the locality of his birthplace; and throughout his life all his interests and sympathies were centered in the United States, which eventually came to include the land of his birth, his "beloved Louisiana."

At an early age he, with his mother, went with his father to Santo Domingo, where the elder Audubon owned a large estate. Here his mother was soon after killed in a negro insurrection; the father and young Audubon, still a very young child, and some servants, escaped to New Orleans and thence went to France. Here Audubon lived for some years at Nantes, in the care of a fond stepmother, and later was put to school. He was not, however, especially studious. He says, "My father being mostly absent on duty [as a naval officer], my mother suffered me to do much as I pleased; it was therefore not to be wondered at that, instead of applying closely to my studies, I preferred associating with boys of my own age and disposition, who were more fond of going in search of birds' nests, fishing, or shooting, than of better studies." Again, speaking of his school days, he says: "During all these years there existed within me a tendency to follow Nature in her walks. Perhaps not an hour of leisure was spent elsewhere than in woods and fields and to examine either the eggs, nest, young, or parents of any species of birds constituted my delight." When he was about eighteen years old his father found it necessary to send him back to his "own beloved country, the United States of America," and, he adds, "I came with intense and indescribable pleasure."

From this time, with the exception of a business trip to France while still a youth, and his later visits to Great Britain and the continent, he lived in the United States, for which, in all his wanderings, he manifested the greatest attachment.

The history of the first forty years of Audubon's life, as here given (pp. 7-38), is autobiographical, being from one of his journals;<sup>1</sup> it brings the account down to 1819, when he left Henderson, Kentucky. This is

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from 'Scribner's Magazine,' for March, 1893, with some corrections.

supplemented (pp. 39-48) by extracts and much other information derived from some of his early journals, only two of which have escaped the ravages of fire.<sup>1</sup> The following thirty pages conclude this fascinating and all too briefly-told history of a career unusually varied and picturesque. This brevity is in large measure, however, compensated by the 'Journals' that compose the chief part of these two large volumes, through which Audubon's charming personal character is revealed in all its simplicity and loveliness. His many struggles with adverse conditions, his mercurial temperament and versatility, his womanly tenderness and kind regard for others, as well as his intense love of nature, stand forth prominently in the almost daily entries of passing events. The 'Journals,' besides giving an insight into the motives and character of the man, possess the charm of personal reminiscence and great historic interest, whether they relate to his sojourn in Edinburgh, London, and Paris, or to his various expeditions into then almost unexplored parts of this continent. The European Journals (I, pp. 79-342) cover the critical period (1826-29) of Audubon's visit to Edinburgh and London in search of subscribers to and a publisher for 'The Birds of America,' and introduce to the reader persons then prominent, not only in literature and art, but as naturalists and natural history publishers. Audubon was received everywhere with great cordiality, and formed many life-long friendships. The names of Lord Stanley (later Earl of Derby), the Rathbones, Traill, Roscoe, Jameson, Bewick, Children, Selby, Vigors, Sabine, Swainson, Nuttall, and others in England, and Cuvier in France, have either been given by Audubon to American birds, or are otherwise associated with their literary history. The Rathbones were his especial friends and greatly aided him in his canvass for subscribers and in securing the publication of his work. This portion of the 'Journals' abounds especially in passages it is hard to refrain from quoting, either from their revealing characteristic traits of Audubon himself, or as giving glimpses of many naturalists prominent in England during the first half of the present century.

The following brief extracts will serve to illustrate the cordiality of his reception and the general character of his Journals. He thus relates for example, his first meeting with Lord Stanley: "In the afternoon I drove with Mr. Hodgson to his cottage, and while chatting with his amiable wife the door opened to admit Lord Stanley. I have not the least doubt that if my head had been looked at, it would have been thought to be the body, globularly closed, of one of our largest porcupines; all my hair — and I have enough — stood straight on end, I am sure. He is tall, well formed, made for activity, simply but well dressed; he came to me at once, bowing to Mrs. Hodgson as he did so, and taking my hand in his, he said: 'Sir, I am glad to see you.' Not the words only, but his

---

<sup>1</sup> Destroyed in the 'Great Fire' that devastated New York city in 1835.

manner put me at once at my ease. My drawings were soon brought out. Lord Stanley is a great naturalist, and in an instant he was exclaiming over my work, 'Fine!' 'Beautiful!' and when I saw him on his knees, having spread my drawings on the floor, the better to compare them, I forgot he was Lord Stanley, I knew only he too loved Nature. . . . He cordially invited me to call on him in Grosvenor street in town (thus he called London), shook hands with me again, and mounting a splendid hunter rode off. . . . Oh! that I had been flogged out of this miserable shyness and *mauvaise honte* when I was a youth."

He says again, "When I arrived in this city [Liverpool] I felt dejected, miserably so; the uncertainty as to my reception, my doubts as to how my work would be received, all conspired to depress me. Now, how different are my sensations! I am well received everywhere, my works praised and admired, and my poor heart is at last relieved from the great anxiety that has for so many years agitated it, for I know now that I have not worked in vain."

Under the same date he writes: "I have letters given me to Baron Humboldt, General La Fayette, Sir Walter Scott, Sir Humphry Davy, Miss Hannah More, Miss Edgworth, Sir Thomas Lawrence, etc., etc. How I wish Victor could be with me; what an opportunity to see the best of this island; few ordinary individuals ever enjoyed the same reception. Many persons of distinction have begged drawing lessons of me at a guinea an hour." Although entertained so constantly, his expenses were heavy, to defray which he spent much time painting pictures on orders, and also for presentation to the Royal and other scientific societies as a token of his appreciation of the aid rendered him in making known his work to the educated, the elite, and the titled of England. Thus, under August 21, 1826, he says: "I painted many hours this day, finished my Otter; . . . I was again invited to remove to Green Bank [to the Rathbones], but declined until I have painted the Wild Turkey cock for the Royal Institution [of Liverpool], say three days more."

Under date of Dec. 13, 1826, he says: "I have spent the greater portion of this day in the company of Mr. Selby, the ornithologist. . . . We were together some hours at the Institution,—he was greatly pleased with my drawings,—and we then dined at Mr. Lizars' in company with Dr. Lizars, and we all talked ornithology. I wish I possessed the scientific knowledge of the subject that Mr. Selby does. He wished to hear my paper on the 'Buzzard,' and after doing so, took it with him to read to Sir Wm. Jardine, to whom he goes to-morrow, but will return on Monday. Later Dr. Brewster came to my room with the proof of the paper on the 'Carriion Crow.' He read it, and we both corrected. He told me it was a question whether or no I could be made a member of the Royal Academy [of Edinburgh], for only *thirty* foreigners were allowed by law, and the number was already complete; still he hoped an exception would be made in my case. He thanked me very cordially for my paper, and said Sir

Walter Scott wished to meet me, and would do so on Monday at the Royal Academy."

One more extract may here be given, to show the incentive that inspired Audubon's efforts: "We [referring to his engraver, Mr. Lizars] then talked of the engraving of the Hawks, and it seems that it will be done. Perhaps even yet fame may be mine, and enable me to provide all that is needful for my Lucy [his wife] and my children. Wealth I do not crave, but comfort; and for my boys I have the most ardent desire that they may receive the best of education, far above any that I possess; and day by day science advances, new thoughts and new ideas crowd onward, there is always fresh food for enjoyment, study, improvement, and I must place them where all this may be a possession to them."

His real feeling toward Alexander Wilson, at this period of Audubon's life, is shown by his reference to "a new work on the Birds of England." He says, "I did not like it as well as I had hoped; I much prefer Thomas Bewick. Bewick is the Wilson of England."

The fascinating pages of the 'European Journals' must now be left to the enjoyment of the reader, while we pass to a brief notice of the 'Labrador Journal' (1833), and the 'Yellowstone Journal' (1843). These have a different interest, being narratives of exploration, and hence, from the period when they were made, are of special interest for the historian and the naturalist. The voyage to Labrador was made in the schooner 'Ripley,' in command of Captain Emery, which sailed from Eastport, Me., June 6, to which port Audubon and his party returned August 31. He had with him as companions and assistants his son John, and four young men from Boston—Messrs. George Shattuck, Thomas Lincoln, William Ingalls, and Joseph Coolidge. Since the time of Audubon's Labrador expedition great changes have taken place in the bird fauna of the islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador coast. This, for example, is his description of the Bird Rocks, north of the Magdalene Islands: "About ten a speck rose on the horizon, which I was told was the Rock; we sailed well, the breeze increased fast, and we neared this object apace. At eleven I could distinguish its top plainly from the deck, and thought it covered with snow to the depth of several feet; this appearance existed on every portion of the flat, projecting shelves. Godwin said, with the coolness of a man who had visited this Rock for ten successive seasons, that what we saw was not snow—but Gannets! I rubbed my eyes, took my spy-glass, and in an instant the strangest picture stood before me. They were birds we saw,—a mass of birds of such a size as I never before cast my eyes on. The whole of my party stood astounded and amazed, and all came to the conclusion that such a sight was of itself sufficient to invite any one to come across the Gulf to view it at this season. The nearer we approached, the greater our surprise at the enormous number of these birds, all calmly seated on their eggs or newly hatched brood, their heads all turned to windward, and towards us. The air above for a hundred yards, and

for some distance around the whole rock, was filled with Gannets on the wing, which from our position made it appear as if a heavy fall of snow was directly above us. . . . The whole surface is perfectly covered with nests, placed about two feet apart, in such regular order that you may look through the lines as you would look through those of a planted patch of sweet potatoes or cabbages. The fishermen who kill these birds to get their flesh for codfish bait, ascend in parties of six or eight, armed with clubs; sometimes, indeed, the party comprises the crews of several vessels. As they reach the top, the birds, alarmed, rise with a noise like thunder, and fly off in such hurried, fearful confusion as to throw each other down, often falling on each other till there is a bank of them many feet high. The men strike them down and kill them until fatigued or satisfied. Five hundred and forty have been thus murdered in one hour by six men. The birds are skinned with little care, and the flesh cut off in chunks; it will keep fresh about a fortnight."

At another place they found two eggers collecting eggs of the Foolish Guillemot, their take for the season being estimated at about 2,000 dozen. With such inroads annually for almost a century upon the Sea Fowl, the wonder is that any are left!

On the coast of Labrador Audubon found the Pied or Labrador Duck (*Camptolaimus labradorius*) breeding on the top of low bushes, and among other noteworthy discoveries was the Finch, which he named for his young companion, Thomas Lincoln.

The Labrador trip was undertaken for the purpose of making drawings for the continuation of the 'Birds of America,' and although the journey was one of hardship, owing to almost continuous tempestuous weather, it was exceedingly profitable in results, despite the many unfavorable conditions for work.

The Missouri River expedition was undertaken solely in the interest of the 'Quadrupeds of North America,' in which Audubon and his two sons, John and Victor, were then engaged, in conjunction with Dr. Bachman. As Miss Audubon tells us, "The journey has been only briefly touched upon in former publications, and the entire record from August 16 until the return home was lost in the back of an old secretary from the time of Audubon's return in November, 1843, until August, 1896, when two of his granddaughters found it. Mrs. Audubon states in her narrative that no record of this part of the trip was known to exist, and none of the family now living had ever seen it until the date mentioned." Its discovery was most fortunate, as its publication makes available a diary of the highest value, not only to the naturalist but to the historian. As here printed it occupies about 270 pages (Vol. I, pp. 447-532, Vol. II, pp. 1-195), and every page is replete with interest. Audubon left New York March 11, and reached St. Louis March 28; delayed here by the unfavorable weather of a late spring, final departure on the long journey up the Missouri was made April 25, on the steamer

'Omega.' Fort Union was reached June 12. Of this slow, tedious journey, with the most primitive facilities for navigation, Audubon writes: "Our trip to this place has been the quickest on record, though our boat is the slowest that ever undertook to reach the Yellowstone. Including all stoppages and detentions, we have made the trip in forty-eight days and seven hours from St. Louis. We left St. Louis April 25th, at noon; reaching Fort Union June 12th, at seven in the evening." On the return journey the start was made August 16 from Fort Union, and St. Louis was reached Oct. 19, Audubon arriving at his home in New York Nov. 6.

On this journey Audubon took with him as assistants and companions his friend Edward Harris of Philadelphia, John G. Bell, the well-known New York taxidermist, the botanical artist Isaac Sprague, and Lewis Squires. Bell, Harris and Sprague are each commemorated in the names of new birds discovered during the journey—in Bell's Vireo, Harris's Finch, and Sprague's Lark. The narrative of the expedition gives a vivid picture of frontier life a half a century ago, with much valuable information respecting the character and habits of the Indians and half-breeds met with, in addition to the natural history notes and hunting episodes, of which the journal is largely composed. This was in the early days when Parrakeets were common as far north as Nebraska, and were met with by Audubon as far up the Missouri as Great Bend, South Dakota; wolves, elk, deer, antelope and bison abounded. Valuable observations are recorded on the general character of the country, as well as on the birds and mammals.

Volume II concludes with the 'Episodes,' fifty-eight in number. All but one were published in the first three volumes of the 'Ornithological Biographies,' but as they were not republished in the later 'Birds of America,' nor elsewhere till now, they will prove of special interest, as well to the general reader as to the naturalist. They treat of a great variety of subjects, including incidents of personal adventure, and often show Audubon at his best as a strong and versatile writer, and reveal, quite as much as his 'Journals,' his kind-heartedness and keen appreciation of the fancies and foibles of his fellowmen.

Audubon was blessed with a strong constitution and remarkable physical vigor and endurance. As early, however, as the Labrador journey he speaks of realizing that he was no longer young, and that he could not draw steadily for fourteen hours a day, as was formerly his custom. Yet ten years later, at the age of seventy, he undertook the arduous journey to the Yellowstone, and returned apparently none the worse for its incidents. In his younger days and till long after his return from England, his usual allowance of sleep was four hours per day; he was an early riser, and seemed rarely to experience fatigue. After a life of great activity and varied experiences, his later days were spent in the quiet of his family in New York. To the last, says his biographer, "his enthusiasm, freshness, and keenness of enjoyment and pain were never blunted. His

ease and grace of speech and movement were as noticeable in the aged man as they had been in the happy youth of Mill Grove. His courteous manners to all, high and low, were always the same; his chivalry, generosity, and honor were never dimmed, and his great personal beauty never failed to attract attention; always he was handsome." At last, "after a few days of increasing feebleness, for there was no illness," Audubon quietly passed away January 27, 1851. An appropriate monument, erected by the New York Academy of Sciences, marks his last resting place in Trinity Church Cemetery, near the place of his New York home.

The two volumes, '*Audubon and His Journals*,' are beautifully printed and attractively illustrated, the illustrations including about a dozen portraits of Audubon, one of his wife, and several of each of his sons John Woodhouse and Victor Gifford. Also '*Mill Grove Mansion*,' '*Flatland Ford Mansion*,' and Audubon's '*Old Mill*' in Pennsylvania; the monument that marks his grave, and several sketches of birds and camp scenes not previously published. There are also facsimiles of several entries in his journals, and of diplomas received from various foreign and American scientific societies. The publishers have thus done their share to give these memoirs a fitting dress.

Great praise is due Miss Audubon for her labor in preparing the manuscripts for the press, and for her admirable biography of her eminent grandfather, in which she has displayed rare good taste and judgment. The Missouri River Journals are enriched by footnotes giving extracts from the writings of contemporary travellers, confirmatory or explanatory of the text, and the European Journals by biographical notes respecting the eminent persons mentioned in the narrative. Further value and interest is added by the annotations — zoölogical, geographical and biographical in character — furnished by Dr. Coues, — a task for which his special lines of research have given him eminent fitness. Miss Audubon also acknowledges indebtedness to him for other material aid and advice. She also refers feelingly to the encouragement and assistance rendered by her sisters and other friends, and says, among her other acknowledgments: "Next to the memory of my father, Mr. Ruthven Deane has been the motive power which has caused this volume to be written." She is to be congratulated on thus having raised not only an enduring monument to the memory of an admirable man, but on having given to the world a fund of information so varied and welcome that it is hard to say to what class of readers it most strongly appeals. It must, however, especially awaken an answering chord of sympathy in the 'born naturalist,' endowed with feelings and aspirations such as inspired the great 'painter-naturalist,' whose life and works are here so fittingly set forth.—J. A. A.